

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 26, 27, 30, 34, 35, 39, 41-47 and 50 are presently pending in this application, Claims 28, 29, 31-33, 36-38, 40, 48 and 49 having been canceled, and Claims 26, 44-47 and 50 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to for informalities; Claims 26, 27, 30, 34-36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44-47 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 97/14326 (hereinafter "WO '326"); and Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO'326 in view of Batra (U.S. Patent 4,617,745). However, Claim 37 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claim 37 includes allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 26 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claim 37, and Claim 44 has been amended similarly to Claim 26. Also, Claims 26, 44-47 and 50 have been further amended for clarification. In view of the allowable subject matter indicated in the outstanding Office Action, Claims 26 and 44 are believed to be allowable.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 28, 29, 31-33, 36-38, 40, 48 and 49 be canceled without prejudice.

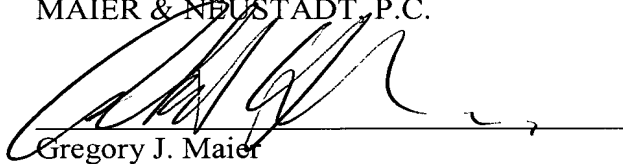
Also, submitted herewith are formal drawings for Figures 9a, 9b, 10a and 10b as required by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to reflect these figures.

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In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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